

## REPORT

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 27th January 1906.

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## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 15th January says that Zahir Sultan, recently appointed by Persia to be the Governor of Belu-

ROZNAMA-I-MUKADDAS  
HABUL MATEEN,  
Jan. 15th, 1906.

Persian politics.

chistan, went to Chah Bahar to realize the arrears of revenue from the Makranis. A promise of being confirmed in his office; provided he succeeded in his mission, was held out to him; but Zahir was dismissed on charges of giving about a lakh of rupees to the English and failing to collect the Government revenue. The local English telegraph officer is so powerful that he prevails upon the landholders not to pay their dues to Government revenue collectors. Our neighbours have been encroaching upon Persian territory considering it to be the gate of India. Should we not know where the gate of Persia lies? Our neighbours are increasing their influence in the Beluch country through which the telegraph passes by opening telegraph and post offices, while we have hardly sufficient offices in Kerman, which is about 20 furlongs from Beluchistan. The Persians cannot stand the climate of Beluchistan. Some native youngmen, therefore, ought to be trained in telegraphy and postal work, so that they may be employed in hot climates. The postal and telegraphic staff with the British Commission was not made up of Beluchis or Indians. Beluchistan is the fertile province of Persia, yet a Persian military officer buys flour for his troops at Karachi at a very high price, and that too with the permission of the English. If the news of the cession of Seistan to the Afghans be correct and they reclaim the old Seistan, being its masters, and also if the Quetta Railway is extended to it, the old Seistan is sure to be deserted. The paper concludes the article by recommending the appointment of an educated and patriotic Governor at Seistan in place of the present incumbent who is incompetent and seeks only his own pleasure and interest.

2. The *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 21st January contains a full description of the revolt in Russia, including the substance of the proclamation issued by the revolutionaries and the soldiers who revolted in the southern provinces.

HITVARTA,  
Jan. 21st, 1906.

The revolution in Russia.

The article begins thus:—

The present unrest in Russia is due to the faults of the Russian autocrat and his officials. The subject people having suffered long from oppression are at last trying to make themselves free from their present bondage by revolting against authority.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

3. THE *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 16th January beseeches His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to direct a sifting inquiry to be made into the wrongs that have

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 16th, 1906.

A cooly case.

been inflicted upon the wife and children of one Nanda Pal, who were lately decoyed into service as coolies on a tea estate in Sylhet, and in this connection makes a fervent appeal to Government that if it cannot abolish the cooly laws altogether it should at least vindicate its good name partially by inflicting condign punishment on those who violate those laws.

4. A correspondent writes in the *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 17th January to complain of the serious depredations committed by a number of tigers in the villages of Basundia, Basuaria, Afra and Radhanagar. One of these tigers recently caught measured 4½ cubits in length.

JASOHAR,  
Jan. 17th, 1906.

5. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 18th January writes that in the course of His Honour's recent letter to the Calcutta Police conveying his thanks for their conduct during the late Royal visit, the Lieutenant-Governor referred to "the loyalty of the people and their desire to manifest that loyalty." To show honour and affection towards the Royal visitors was only in accordance with the well-known disposition of the people of this country. No wonder therefore that many of

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 18th, 1906.

The Calcutta Police during the late Royal visit to the city.



them, forgetting for the moment all their sorrows, went out on the streets to get a view of the Royal pair, but it is known that many among them had to come home after receiving blows from sticks given by the police. His Honour says that the police have shown patience, as if the free use of sticks is an indication of that. The stories of police *goondaism* which have appeared in the newspapers will never be inquired into. And these expressions of approval and thanks will only encourage further such acts of lawlessness.

**BNARAT MITRA,**  
Jan. 20th, 1906.

6. In commenting upon the eulogium bestowed upon the Calcutta Police by the Lieutenant-Governor, in connection with the Royal visit, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 20th January writes:—The Lieutenant-Governor says that all the arrangements made by the Calcutta Police in connection with the Royal visit were marked by great forbearance. This is due either to His Honour's ignorance of the facts or of his intention to ignore the high-handed doings of the Police officials, some of whom had been guilty of the meanest acts, for instance, they dishonoured many respectable people by striking them without any sufficient reason. If this is what His Honour means by "forbearance," then he is quite right.

**BIRBHUM VARTA,**  
Jan. 20th, 1906.

7. The *Birbhum Varta* [Birbhum] of the 20th January writes that Babu Pulin Chandra Roy, the Sub-Inspector now in charge of the Suri Thana, is a most competent and efficient officer, and of a character rarely to be found in the ranks of the force. He satisfies the public with whom he has to deal by his civility and his manner of work, and no charge of oppression has yet been heard against him in any of the places he has been in.

**SANDHYA,**  
Jan. 22nd, 1906.

8. A correspondent of the *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 22nd January writes that the District Superintendent of Police, Jalpaiguri, lately visited Rajganj Police-station with his wife. While they were inside the town, the District Superintendent rode in bicycle and his wife drove in a carriage drawn by a horse. But after getting out of the town both got into the carriage and had it drawn by *chaukidars* up to Rajganj station, thus making human beings do the work of horses.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

**CHARU MIHIR,**  
Jan. 16th, 1906.

9. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 16th January writes as follows:—

Lawcourts and the *Swadeshi* movement.

The faith of the people of this country in the independence and sense of justice of English Judges has been greatly shaken.

The Judges presiding over the Civil Courts not being directly under the executive authorities have succeeded in maintaining their *prestige*, but the criminal judiciary, it is believed, too often sacrifice their conscience in the hope of gaining the favour of their executive superiors. The independence and impartiality of the English law-courts helped in no small degree to establish British rule in the country, and the consequence of the people's present loss of faith in those courts cannot but be serious.

The *Swadeshi* movement has given rise to a number of criminal cases, in most of which the police is the complainant. The Magistrate under orders from the Lieutenant-Governor and the police under orders from the Magistrate have taken the field to suppress the *Swadeshi* movement. In reply to the Indian Association's address to Lord Minto, His Excellency pointed to the law-courts where aggrieved people might find redress in cases of official oppression in connection with the movement. But it is the firm conviction of the people of the country that in oppressing them District Magistrates are only acting under the direction of Sir Bampfylde Fuller. Now, in seeking redress against these District Magistrates, people must go to law-courts, of which the presiding officers are only subordinates of such Magistrates on whose confidential reports depend their future prospects in the service. And subordinates can never be expected to pass impartial judgments in cases against their superiors. Considering that many Englishmen see horrors of rebellion in the *Swadeshi* movement and *Bande Matarajm*, justice can hardly be expected in cases having any concern there-



with. There is then that unholy union of the executive and judicial functions which is a fruitful source of mischief. One can hardly show another example of a country in which the complainant is the Judge. Lord Minto deserves our thanks if he is really desirous of upholding the independence and sanctity of the law-courts in the country; but so long as the judiciary will not be made completely independent of the executive, the Indians will never get justice in those courts against powerful executive officers. The attention of Lord Minto is drawn to the fact that in the case of many judicial officers ignorance of local dialects gives rise to great inconvenience in the work of dispensing justice. Last of all, it is urged that, considering the present state of public feeling in Bengal, arrangements should be made for having all cases in connection with the *Swadeshi* movement tried by District Judges with the help of jurors.

10. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 24th January observes, in reference to a case in which Mr. Woodhead, a Magistrate at Mymensnigh, with second-class powers only, is said to have lately passed an illegal sentence of whipping on a boy-thief, that there is nothing strange if the subordinate officials in Eastern Bengal try to acquire notoriety in the same fashion as the head of this Local Government himself. They should, however, remember that British rule in India is based not on the prestige of the Civil Service, but on the sense of justice of the British race. Will the dignity of British rule remain unimpaired if they go on trampling on justice in this manner? For how long more will such farcical trials be permitted to continue?

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Jan. 24th 1906.

(d)—Education.

11. With reference to the scheme for the reorganisation of the Subordinate Educational Service, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 18th January draws attention to the hardship which has been caused under the existing system to the Sub-Inspectors of Schools employed under the District Boards. The *seconded* Sub-Inspectors under the District Boards were appointed by the Government, and it will be an obvious injustice to them if they do not get the benefit of the reorganisation whilst the Departmental Sub-Inspectors get it. Sir Andrew Fraser, however, has earned the gratitude of Board Sub-Inspectors by taking them all into the Department since the 1st January last.

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 18th, 1906.

It is also a serious injustice to Sub-Inspectors that they seldom get promotion and are not allowed to rise above the fifth grade of the Subordinate Educational Service, while teachers and even clerks in the Department get a promotion after an average interval of two to three years and have no restriction placed upon their promotion. It is rumoured that Mr. Jackson, the Assistant Director of Public Instruction, has proposed the preparation of a separate cadre for only Deputy and Sub-Inspectors, promotion in which will be confined among those officers only. If this proposal is carried into effect, a great boon will be conferred upon the Sub-Inspectors.

There is one other point to which the attention of Sir Alexander Pedler, Mr. Earle and Sir Andrew Fraser should be drawn, and that is, the injustice and heart-burning that have been caused to many Sub-Inspectors in the preparation of the list recently circulated among District Boards by the placing of the names of those of the Board Sub-Inspectors who had happened to be lucky enough, in consequence of the affluent circumstances of the Boards under which they served, to get an increment of pay, in a grade higher than that in which the names of others, not so fortunate, have been placed. It is well known that many other Sub-Inspectors, besides the few lucky ones, did not get an increment, not because they did not deserve it, but simply because either there were no vacancies in the upper grade, in the case of departmental Sub-Inspectors, or, in the case of Board Sub-Inspectors, the Boards under which they were serving were not in a financial condition to grant them an increment. Under the circumstances it would only be just to place the names of all Sub-Inspectors in their respective places in one and the same grade, and grant a personal allowance to those who draw more than their grade pay.



SOLTAN,  
Jan. 19th, 1906.

12. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 19th January notices with disapproval the undue numerical preponderance of names connected with the Calcutta Madrasah alone in the annual lists of examiners for the Arabic Madrasahs in Bengal, and calls upon Maulvi Ahmed, the Head Maulvi of the Calcutta Madrasah, to justify this preponderance, which means injustice to qualified men from the mufassal Madrasahs—men such as Maulvi Obaidul Huq, Superintendent of the Sitakund Madrasah in Chittagong, for instance, who has been applying for an examinership for years past, but has been hitherto unsuccessful in getting one.

HOWRAH HITAISHI,  
Jan. 20th, 1906.

13. Referring to the demand for the dismissal of certain teachers at Madaripur by the Education Department (noticed in paragraph 21 of the Report on Native Papers in Bengal for the week ending the 20th January 1906), the *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 20th January writes:—

We are surprised at the doings of the Executive and of the Education Department in the new Province. We see that both are equally alike. Hitherto we were hearing of things disgraceful to the official Executive; and now we see that the official Education Department also is making itself equally notorious.

It looks as if Mr. Hallward will in time be able to become a Fuller. But while the one is "hollow," since placed at the head of (the department for imparting) wisdom, he is acting the part of unwisdom (*i.e.*, an unwise man), the other is "Fuller" (completely solid) because he is the wielder of the rod. Does not our Viceroy or the King himself know anything of these oppressions? To whom shall we appeal? Is there absolutely no one to *shaista* (to make straight) this new Shaista Khan of India? Anyhow there is ground for confidence since the parties are well matched. As is the *zulm* so will be the firmness. Put us to prison and make us special constables; still we shall not forget our own country. Praise to Eastern Bengal! You are the true sons of the mother-country!

HITVARTA,  
Jan. 21st, 1906.

14. With reference to the foundation of a National University, the *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 21st January writes:—

Those who have been disappointed to hear that a National University is not going to be established should now be of good cheer, for those colleges of Bengal that have been excluded by the officials from the Government University, as well as those students who have made up their minds to devote their lives to the cause of their country, will be admitted to the National University. It is hoped that the students will no longer be terrified by the threats of the Government. We hope to publish the details of the National University at an early date.

HITVARTA.

The Directorship of Public Instruction and Sir Andrew Fraser.

15. In noticing the retirement of the present Director of Public Instruction, the same paper observes:—

Sir Alexander Pedler, the newly-married Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, has retired immediately on receiving a Knighthood, and a Civilian has been appointed in his stead—a step which had been condemned by able men like Mr. C. B. Clarke and Sir Alfred Croft, but approved by Sir Andrew Fraser. The ways of officials now-a-days present are *terra-incognita* to the public. The stubborn officers have acted wrongly in the past and are doing the same in the present. None can say how they will act in the future.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Jan. 24th, 1906.

A recent notice by the Inspector of Schools, Dacca Division.

16. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 24th January refers to a notice said to have been lately issued by Mr. Stapleton, Inspector of Schools, Dacca Division, requiring all Head Pandits of guru-training and circle schools in the division to qualify themselves for an examination in the Kindergarten system of instruction by undergoing a training for two and-a-half months at the Dacca Training School, and points to the hardship which will be inflicted on these pandits with their meagre resources in having to live at Dacca town without any extra pecuniary assistance from Government. The writer also dwells on the indignity to which they will be put by being



examined along with men far their juniors in years, many of them their students perhaps; and, in conclusion, suggests that the training might well be imparted by means of printed books distributed to each pandit, to be read and got up at home instead of by attending classes at Dacca.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

17. The *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 13th January suggests the necessity of adding a second boat to the one already plying in connection with the ferry service between Koylaghata (Khulna) and Talimpur.  
 A ferry complaint  
 KHULNAVASI,  
 Jan. 13th, 1906.
18. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 16th January says that cholera is raging virulently in Kamalpur, Maheswarkhela and other villages, under the Barhatta thana, in the Mymensingh district.  
 Cholera in the Mymensingh district.  
 CHARU MIHIR,  
 Jan. 16th, 1906.  
 More than 300 people have died of the disease in the Kamalpur village. Medical aid is completely wanting.
19. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 16th January draws the attention of the District Officer of Bankura to the ravages caused by fever in the village of Indas and its neighbourhood and to the necessity of sending additional expert medical assistance there as a measure of relief.  
 Fever in a village in Bankura.  
 BURDWAN  
 SANJIVANI,  
 Jan. 16th, 1906.
20. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 18th January reports the prevalence of cholera and pox as well as of scarcity of food in all parts of the district of Chittagong, and in this connection dwells on the characteristic apathy of the people in refusing to provide against these calamities either before their occurrence or after, and concludes by thanking the District Magistrate for having sanctioned the appointment of ten additional vaccinators at this time.  
 Scarcity, cholera and pox in Chittagong.  
 JYOTI  
 Jan. 18th, 1906.
21. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th January disapproves of the decision of the Bengal Government regarding the septic-tank installations in Bengal, and says that the discharge of effluents from these installations into the river is sure to cause great inconvenience to local residents.  
 Septic tanks in Bengal.  
 HITAVADI,  
 Jan. 19th, 1906.
22. Referring to the Bengal Government's Resolution on the working of septic-tank installations in Bengal, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 20th January writes as follows:—  
 The Government on septic tanks.  
 BANGAVASI,  
 Jan. 20th, 1906.  
 At last a semi-final order has been issued to the effect that septic-tank effluents may continue to be freely discharged into the Hooghly. When Government has said that such effluents are harmless, they are, it seems, bound to be so. Government has taken the help of science to support its position in the matter. But to the people of this country science is something very mysterious and unintelligible. To Government, however, the dicta of science are more worthy of respect than those of the Scripture. Nevertheless, Western science is a very changeable thing. If to-day it says that a certain thing is very insanitary, to-morrow it can call the same thing very sanitary and advise people to use it freely. And following this science, Government will negative to-morrow what it affirms to-day. There is, however, one thing in the Government Resolution which we are unable fully to understand. If the effluents from the septic tanks are to be really sterilised and freely discharged into the Hooghly, why add the proviso that no proposal "to erect an installation nearer to the Calcutta and Howrah water-supply intakes than the installations which at present exist" would be sanctioned by the Lieutenant-Governor without consulting his professional advisers, and obtaining the opinion of the Health Officer of the Corporation; and His Honour would be prepared to have recourse to legislation to enforce this position? Is it because a large number of Europeans live in Calcutta and Howrah that the above distinction has been made in favour of these two towns? Is it because the value of the lives of persons living at a distance from the metropolis is insignificant? Or is it because Government is not really convinced that effluents from septic tanks can be sufficiently sterilised to make them harmless? There is another queer thing in the Resolution. In order to put a stop to public agitation Government says that its orders are final in the matter, but, in



the same breath, it says that—"It is not to be expected that the last word as to the structure and working of the septic tanks has been said by the Committee." It has been useless for the Government to take so much pains to reassure the public in the matter. Everyone, with the exception perhaps of a few cross-brained Babus, knows that in this country Government is the final authority in everything, but that no order of that Government is final. It is in the habit of changing its opinion on things every twenty-four hours. And since the people of the country are at its mercy, they must always act according to its will.

(1)—Questions affecting the land.

SUHRID,  
Jan. 4th, 1906.

23. A correspondent of the *Suhrid* [Comilla] of the 4th January writes that Babu Manendra Nath Ray is the Assistant Settlement Officer at the Kirtipasa Camp No. 4, and he has with him his peshkar,amins and five *amla*. These

Allegations of oppression at the  
Kirtipasa Settlement Camp No. 4.

subordinates of his are acting in a manner which suggests that they are armed with all the authority of a Viceroy, and that they have the *Hakim* completely under their thumb; otherwise they would not have dared publicly to humiliate respectable men and commit *zulm* on them. For instance, for each *badar amin*, the *badar amin* Babu charges a present of a minimum of a rupee. Those who refuse to pay are found fault with and sometimes even humiliated.

Then, again, by influencing the *amla* Babu, Rai Churn Dutt, some parties are secretly getting others' properties recorded as their own. In some cases even properties forming the subject of disputed orders are being recorded differently. Those who are unwilling to offer bribes are being kept waiting for unnecessary lengths of time before they can get their business transacted at all. The son of a man of the *Karmakar* caste of Bansi was lately kept in durance by a *chaprassae* for refusing to offer a bribe, and was afterwards soundly thrashed by the same *chaprassae* under the orders of the peshkar when he demanded his release. The Deputy Babu seems unwilling to listen to all these tales of oppression, and this impression is only confirmed by the boast often made by Rai Churn Babu that the *Hakim* was under the control of the *amla*; and that if he (the *Hakim*) opposed any of the doings of the *amla*, the latter might retaliate by exposing his faults. The *Hakim* is not in the habit of doing each day's work regularly, and work done on a particular day is entered in his diary as done on a different day. These boasts may or may not be true, but the fact remains that the Deputy Babu has not yet once visited Camp No. 4 for inspection. He went to Jhalakati for a day to bring his wife, and for three other days he lay ill. The entries in the diary for these days might be examined in order to prove or disprove Rai Churn Babu's allegations referred to before. The Deputy Babu refuses to bear any objections after recording; so everybody has now to look for redress to applications under section 103.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Jan. 20th, 1906

24. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 20th January, after noticing accusations against the Manager of the Rohini estate (in the district of Sonthal Parganas) of leasing lands belonging to the estate free or on reduced rents to

Allegations against manager,  
Court of Wards Estates, Santhal  
Parganas.

friends or favourites, of appropriating the fish in the tanks of the estate to the use of friends, and generally of treating the estate as if it were his own paternal property, goes on to publish what purports to be a copy of a petition to the Deputy Commissioner of the district from Srimati Narain Kumari, guardian of the minor Tikaits of the Pathrol estate, which as the same Manager as the Rohini estate. The paragraphs in this petition refer to—

(1) the pecuniary losses inflicted on the estate by the forbidding manners of the Manager, which keep off many men of the *bhadralog* class at Madhupur from applying, as they used to do before, for building leases;

(2) the mental distress of the petitioner herself, her family and her tenants from the same cause;

(3) the habit of the Manager of using uncivil words to persons who come to him on business, thus preventing people suffering from grievances (those, for instance, who have acquired a right to make bricks on the estate) from approaching him for redress;



(4) the resignation of a number of tahsildars (whose names are given in the petition) owing to the Manager's lack of self-restraint resulting not only in the use of bad language towards others, but often in the meeting out of physical chastisement also;

(5) a rumour that the Manager's mind has become deranged since he left Pakur;

(6 & 7) the refusal of the Manager to do anything to exempt the petitioner from liability to supply the expenses of wearing apparel for the petitioner's sons who are studying at Deogarh and also of paying for their railway journeys from school to home, when they come home either for festivities or for the vacations;

(8) the petitioner's desire to see the Deputy Commissioner personally to lay before him her tale of grievances in August last, and her failure to do so, in consequence of having been misled by a statement of the Manager's;

(9) the petitioner's desire that the Deputy Commissioner should once see things for himself;

(10) the Manager's refusal to grant on the occasion of the marriage in the month of *Asarh* last, of a step-sister of the petitioner's, a sum not exceeding a hundredth of the sum of Rs. 500 which was granted on the occasion of the first *sraddh* of the Tikait Braja Bihari Singh, the petitioner's late husband;

(11) the petitioner's desire that the present Manager of the estate be replaced by his brother, Maulvi Syed Ejahat Hosain.

25. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 21st January publishes what purports to be copies of two petitions by Srimat-Narain Kumari, the guardian of the minor Tikait of the Pathrole estate near Madhupur, in the Sonthal Parganas, addressed respectively to Khan Bahadur Syed Nejabat Hossain, General Manager of the estate under the Court of Wards, and to the Deputy Commissioner of the district. The first, dated 5th September 1905, protests against the proposed leasing of the Madhupur *hat* to one Mosaheb Lal (a man whom the petitioner describes as a life long enemy both of her late husband and of her minor wards, and who, according to her, was once characterised as a notoriously bad man by the Deputy Magistrate Mr. Heard in the course of a judgment dated 10th February 1898), and sets forth what, in the petitioner's opinion, are the better claims of the old *izardar* Ram Singh.

On this petition the Manager passed orders stating that the *hat* was leased out for a year on the 30th August to Mosaheb Lal as the highest bidder at a public auction, and that this settlement could not be interfered with.

In the second petition (dated 15th September 1905) addressed to the Deputy Commissioner of the district, the petitioner makes a number of allegations against the Manager for his part in this case of Mosaheb Lal and also in a law-suit by her in the Court of the Deputy Commissioner of Hazaribagh against one Moti Chand, and concludes with a protest against charging, as is being actually done, on the Pathrole estate alone, the whole amount of the monthly rent of the house which is tenanted by the Assistant Manager, an officer who looks after not the Pathrole estate only, but all properties under the Court of Wards in that neighbourhood.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Jan. 21st, 1906.

(g)—*Railways and communications including canals and irrigation.*

26. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 11th January makes the following suggestions in connexion with the management of the Assam-Bengal Railway:—

JYOTI,  
Jan. 11th, 1906.

(1) A fourth jetty should be constructed at the double moorings if pace is to be kept with the growing requirements of the trade of Chittagong.

(2) The Dacca-Mymensingh line should be placed under the Assam-Bengal Railway and a wagon ferry service instituted between Chandpur and Naraingunj.

(3) Steamers should ply between Chandpur and Dacca in correspondence with the timing of the trains, so as to do away with the existing necessity of a long halt and break in the journey by the night train between Chittagong and Noakhali districts on one side and Dacca and Mymensingh districts on the other.



(4) A separate local train should be run between Laksam and Chittagong so as to permit of the vendors of fish, milk and vegetables selling their goods at the latter town at hours sufficiently early for the convenience of the towns-people.

(5) A platform and a waiting-room for pilgrims at Sitakund, and Hindu refreshment-rooms at Chandpur and Laksam, and a general improvement of inter-class accommodation are reforms the need for which has long been insisted on by the public, but as yet without avail.

(6) An addition to the inter-class accommodation usually provided in each of the trains is necessary.

(7) It is being proposed to remove the salt *gola* from sudder-ghat to the double moorings. A preferable alternative would be to lay down a line of railway along the river-bank from sudder-ghat all the way to Lama's Bazar.

SOLTAN,  
Jan. 19th, 1906.

27. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 19th January complains of the incivility and extortion of the coolies at Sealdah Railway Station, and draws attention to the corruption of the luggage-clerks and of the *durwans* who guard the approaches to the windows of the booking-office at the same station.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Jan. 20th, 1906.

28. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 20th January publishes a letter dwelling on the necessity of re-excavating the *katakhali khal* in the Fulta Police-station in the 24-Parganas district, if cultivation is to be restored to a large number of neighbouring villages (such as Katalphuli, Sola, Asanay, Swetkalna, Haripur, Suri, Navasam, Kalagachia, Bhawanipur, Helegachi, Harindanga, Jangalia, Boldari, Sujogolpur, Balia, Ramlakha, Joysingha, Goaberia, Bar-rukhai, etc.), which were formerly well-cultivated enough, but in which since 1307 (B. S.) cultivation has been absolutely at a standstill. The district authorities have been many times sought to be moved in this matter, but as yet the only response has been a suggestion to the cultivators to make a combined representation to their zamindars under the Embankment Act (II of 1882). It is urged that there is no hope of help from that quarter, and that therefore the Government must come to the rescue, if the inhabitants of the tracts affected are to be saved from death by starvation.

(h)—General.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Jan. 16th, 1906.

29. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 16th January writes as follows:—

The partition of Bengal.

The faith of the Bengali public in the British Government has been greatly shaken during the last two months, and not a few people are now found to compare it with the Russian administration. We do not know whether Sir Bampfylde Fuller takes a pride in oppressing Bengalis, but it is certain that a perusal of the page of history in which his acts will be recorded will make future generations of Englishmen blush. Englishmen will no longer be able to boast before the world of having established a liberal form of Government in India.

It is not only the *prestige* of the British Government that will suffer, but the administration of the country will be rendered increasingly difficult by being carried on in complete disregard of native opinion. Who can deny that the partition of Bengal has created a widespread feeling of discontent in the country? This feeling will not be removed so long as the partition is not rescinded. The repressive measures of the Government which are intended to silence Bengali protest and opposition have only served to intensify them. Bengalis are not barbarians and they cannot be governed by brute force. It is not in the power of anybody to change the ordinances of fate, and who knows what fate has ordained for the Bengalis? But the Bengalis will not give up their hope till the last.

CHARU MIHIR.

30. The same paper says that Lord Minto's reply to the address presented to him by the Indian Association has made the people despair of getting any redress of their grievances. If on the evidence of a few men like the Nabob of Dacca, His Excellency thinks that there is a substantial difference of opinion in Bengal on the partition question, then His Excellency's



knowledge of the country must be really unsatisfactory. One cannot also agree with His Excellency when he says that it is his duty to follow the established policy of administration in the country. If a Viceroy makes a mistake, can it not be corrected by his successor? Cannot Lord Minto write to the Secretary of State for India proposing the reversal of an oppressive and unpopular policy? Was not the Press Act of Lord Lytton's administration subsequently rescinded? Lord Minto has accepted as Gospel truth everything that the officials have told him. His Excellency's opinions are not based on independent sifting enquiries. But he ought to have considered that as regards the points urged by the Indian Association in its address, the people of the country are the complainants against the Government. It is a pity His Excellency is rapidly passing under the influence of narrow-minded officials.

31. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 18th January says that Lord Minto's reply to the address presented to him by the Indian Association has disappointed the Bengali public.

Lord Minto's reply to the Indian Association's address.

SRI SRI VISHNU-  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
BAZAR PATRIKA,  
Jan. 18th, 1906.

His Excellency said, "I fully sympathise with the objects of the Association." It is very easy simply to "sympathise" in words because it demands no sacrifice nor any departure from settled policy. Nevertheless our thanks are due to His Excellency for this expression of sympathy, because many people are unable to show even this small amount of courtesy.

His Excellency, moreover, deserves our thanks for his avowed attachment to the *Swadeshi* cause. Sir Andrew Fraser and Sir Bampfylde Fuller also have expressed their attachment to it; and although they are oppressing the people at the prospect of loss to the Liverpool salt merchant and the Manchester weaver, still we thank them simply for having said a few sweet words about *Swadeshi*.

As for His Excellency's opinion regarding the prospect of a rescission of the partition of Bengal, he ought to be thanked for having candidly made confessions such as another Viceroy might have considered derogatory to his high position.

His Excellency said that the views expressed by the Indian Association regarding the partition of Bengal were not universally held by the people of the country, that "the advantages and disadvantages of partition have been fully and carefully considered," and that the partition "will add ere long very largely to general prosperity and industrial development." All this appears to be an echo of Lord Curzon's sayings and not the result of independent enquiry and reasoning on Lord Minto's part, and one feels the presence of Mr. Risley behind the scene. A few men like the Nabob of Dacca, who are anxious always to remain in the good graces of the authorities, are the only supporters of partition in the country.

As for His Excellency's opinion regarding the cases of official oppression in Barisal, we have in this matter only to thank our own lot, because what we shall say is bound to be false and what the officials will say is bound to be accepted as Gospel truth, although in the present case the latter stand in the position of defendants.

32. Referring to Lord Minto's reply to the address from the Indian Association, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 18th January writes that His Lordship was not requested by the Association to express his views on the points raised in the address and he said more than he need have said, impelled by a fear lest any of his utterances should act as an encouragement to a revival of the agitation, and lest the prestige of the Lieutenant-Governor of the new Province should seriously suffer. It is His Excellency's idea that the opposition to the partition is not universal. To disabuse His Lordship of this mistaken idea such a terrible flame of agitation will again be lit up with vigour in Bengal as will convince him of the injuries which the Bengalis have suffered by the partition. On the 16th October last, the entire Bengali race took an oath in the name of God to devote all their strength to the annulment of the partition. Let them not forget this national vow. Let not their zeal be damped by feelings of despair and by the powers of officials. If die they must, let them die after a mortal struggle, so that the reproach of cowardice may be removed from the Bengali name in the eyes of the world.

SAJIVANI,  
Jan. 18th, 1906.



HITAVADI,  
Jan. 19th, 1906.

33. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th January writes as follows:—

Lord Minto's reply to the Indian Association's address.

We see no reason why some people have been expressing sorrow and astonishment at the Viceroy's reply to the address of the Indian Association. Anyone who has the least insight into politics will admit that a different reply could not have been expected from the Head of the Indian Government to the representation of the people's grievances as set forth in the address. Who but a lunatic could expect that in reply to the address the Viceroy should hold out the hope of undoing the partition, dismissing the Assam Lieutenant-Governor, Fuller, and transporting the officials who were oppressing the people? Why, then, it may be asked, were the grievances mentioned in the address at all? The reply to the question is clear. It would not have looked well for the representatives of the people to have met the Viceroy and not to have drawn his attention to the two things that were most heavily pressing upon the people's minds. If the representatives had done this, the public would certainly have blamed them.

We have, however, some remarks to make about the Viceroy's reply. His Excellency said:—

"I must ask you to remember that I am here as an administrator whose duty it is to carry out a policy already approved by the Secretary of State, and I should be misleading you if I, in any way, appeared to encourage a hope of its reversal."

We know it quite well that Lord Minto has not come to this country to reverse a policy approved by the Secretary of State. But has not His Excellency the power, in consideration of circumstances, to propose an amendment or a change in a policy which has greatly dissatisfied the public or in an unjust act done by the Government? Did the proposal to partition Bengal emanate from the Secretary of State? Was it not, on the contrary, a scheme to which Lord Curzon, by telling truths as well as untruths and by expressing undue *zid*, got his sanction? Lord Minto is an intelligent and experienced ruler, and we do not see why he should, like a blind man, merely carry out the orders of the Secretary of State and consider it improper to express his independent view on any matter.

The Viceroy did not accept without demur the statement in the address that the people of the whole province were opposed to the partition. We do not know who are the worthies who spoke in favour of the partition before the Viceroy, or what information regarding public opinion the officials have placed before His Lordship. But we are far from saying that among seventy millions of Bengalis there cannot be found a few self-seeking, treacherous sycophants who are in favour of the partition. We can, however, assert with firmness that the number of even such supporters of the partition is not large. If even sixty out of the seventy millions of Bengalis are opposed to the partition, is it not justifiable to say that the whole Province is opposed to the measure? We shall, therefore, be glad if His Lordship will take the trouble to ascertain how many are in favour and how many against it.

We are as yet unable to appreciate the benefits which the partition will in future confer upon the people of Bengal. So far as the present is concerned, we see that it is about to ruin us. It is more than we can do to put our necks into the gallows with the consoling thought that our action will do us good in the long run. Even if the partition is admitted to be a measure calculated for the people's benefit, was it a liberal policy to carry it out in the face of the popular dissatisfaction?

Lord Minto saw nothing to blame in the conduct of the Eastern Bengal officials, because he had heard only the official version of the case supplied to him by the very officials who were committing oppression. He is also a newcomer in the country, and is as yet ignorant of what Anglo-Indian officials are capable of. He therefore thinks that the people will get justice in the law courts. If His Excellency knew that in this unfortunate country, in virtue of the combination of judicial and executive functions, failures of justice are a daily occurrence; that people seldom get justice when they complain in a law court against European officials or against police officers who commit oppression, and that such people are subsequently subjected by the officers complained against to no end of oppression and indignities, then His



Excellency would not have remained content with simply pointing out the law courts to the people.

Indeed, what we are most afraid of is lest His Excellency should catch the contagion which vitiates the very air and water of this country. We therefore ask His Excellency, with all respect, to beware of the evil counsel of his advisers. We shall be extremely sorry if he comes under their influence. We must state for his information that many a sympathetic Indian ruler has gone astray under the machinations of power-loving and native-hating officials. We make bold to say that an impartial enquiry will convince His Lordship that the information he has been able to collect is mostly false.

We would have liked His Excellency to give us a definition of the term "*Swadeshi*", so that we might have seen whether we are making any bad use of it.

We must say in conclusion that Lord Minto's frank and courteous treatment greatly pleased the deputation. Instead of deceiving the representatives of the Indian Association by sweet words of hypocrisy, he frankly told his mind and that has greatly pleased us.

34. Referring to Lord Minto's reply to the address from the Indian Association, the *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 20th January writes:—

Lord Minto's reply to the address from the Indian Association.

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,  
Jan. 20th, 1906.

What Lord Minto has said may not be pleasing for the moment; but after a review of the real situation, we have not been able to lose all hope; for we know of a number of incidents which, to a certain extent, display the Viceroy's high-mindedness.

35. Referring to Lord Minto's reply to the address from the Indian Association, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 20th January writes as follows:—

Lord Minto's reply to the address of the Indian Association.

BASUMATI,  
Jan. 20th, 1906.

We should consider it a great favour shown to us by the English that they have not yet sent us to jail for the anti-partition agitation. But our leaders are so foolish that they are not satisfied with this favour, but, like the crane in Æsop's well-known fable of "The Wolf and the Crane," entertain the hope that their demand will be actually complied with. Even now the *Bengalee* says: "His Excellency, however, did not commit himself to a declaration that there would be no modification of the scheme of partition. If a reversal is impossible surely a modification of the scheme might be made which would place the Bengali-speaking community under one administration." This is hoping against all hope. Why did Lord Curzon divide Bengal, if Lord Minto is to remove the very cause which led to the partition? The policy of all Englishmen, whether Conservative or Liberal, is the same as regards India. From what Lord Minto has said we understand that he is not in a position to change the policy of the administration of the country. The partition of Bengal is approved by the policy which hampers the interest of Englishmen, and this policy is to remain unchanged whether Mr. Brodrick or Mr. Morley rules at the India Office. Lord Minto has said that the partition will ere long be productive of good. This is true, but "good to whom"? is the question. If it is true that what is bad for us is good for the English, then everyone knows who will benefit by the partition. The most shameful part of Lord Minto's reply is where His Excellency supports the illegal and oppressive policy of Sir Bampfylde Fuller's administration. It is a pity that even Viceroys cannot keep themselves aloof from official intrigue and see things in their true light.

36. Referring to Lord Minto's reply to the address presented to him by the Indian Association, the *Swadesh* [Calcutta] of the 22nd January writes as follows:—

The Indian Association's address to Lord Minto.

SWADESH,  
Jan. 22nd, 1906.

Our leaders never expected such a reply from His Excellency, or they would never have mentioned the partition affair in the address. These leaders often allow themselves to forget that the form of Government prevailing in this country is a combination of autocracy and bureaucracy in which bureaucracy is predominant. Men quite inexperienced in matters concerning the country come out as its Governors-General, and are, consequently, obliged to allow themselves to be completely led by officials in such matters. We, for ourselves, never thought that Lord Minto would



undo what Lord Curzon had done. And the false hope entertained by our leaders in the matter, has, at last, been shattered by the Viceroy.

It is useless any more to be begging at the door of the authorities. All our energies must now be directed towards rousing the latent powers of the masses in the country. It is with the aid of those powers alone that the salvation of the country is possible. Such matters as the improvement of arts and industries, reform of education, &c., must now engage our attention instead of speechification and platform agitation. And along with all this what are essentially necessary are self-sacrifice, real work, true patriotism, a determination to serve others at any cost, and an unstinted devotion to the service of the mother-country. The Indian Association's address will have the effect of producing at least one good effect,—that of showing to the people the utter futility of begging.

DACCA GAZETTE,  
Jan. 22nd, 1906.

37. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 22nd January, writes as follows in English:—

Lord Minto's reply to the address of the Indian Association.

We have often said that our Calcutta leaders are building castles in the air with reference to the re-opening of the Partition question by the Government of Lord Minto. They could not make a graver mistake than to assume that the Government policy changes with every change in the *personnel* of the said Government. In reviewing the administration of Lord Curzon, that great national organ, the *Times*, said, Governors might come and go but the India Government always remained the same. The statement is true in all its essentials. Viceroys will always come and go, but the India Government must always remain what it is; so those who fondly hoped that with the departure of Lord Curzon his policy of administration would be reversed betray a lamentable ignorance of the fundamental principle of British rule in India.

We do a great injustice to Lord Curzon by holding him directly and personally responsible for this, and that administrative act that might have been inaugurated during his *regimé*. This or that act is only a link in the chain and it is the merest accident that these links, that so long lay deposited in the bottom of the ship of British statesmanship, have come to public view, owing to the exigencies of British interests during Lord Curzon's Viceroyalty.

It is good that Lord Minto has taken the earliest opportunity to disabuse us of all misgivings on this point. His Excellency in reply to the address of the Indian Association has frankly admitted that he has no hand in the matter, that he has simply to carry out the wishes of the Secretary of State for India. His Lordship has also expressed it as his opinion that the partition will in the long run benefit the country industrially as well as in other ways. After this declaration we do not think there is the least chance of the partition being interfered with by the Government of Lord Minto.

Now the question is, what is to be done under the circumstances? Are we to submit to the inevitable? So long we were kept hoping against hope. We fondly pinned our faith to Lord Minto's generous English instinct. All our hopes in this quarter are now dashed to pieces. Now remains to be tried the British Parliament which consist of typical English, Irish, and Scotch statesmen, the first article of faith of whom is "Rule Britannia." The key-note of British administration of India is England first and others next. Charity must begin at home. It is but natural. If we were in the position of the English, we would have probably conducted ourselves exactly on the same lines. It is an open secret that the great partition has been effected in the teeth of terrible opposition, more in the interests of British capitalists than in those of the people of the soil. Such being the case all our bewailings are bound to fall flat upon our rulers—be they a Morley or a Brodrick, a Lord Curzon or a Lord Minto. Who rules India? Answer—the English Nation. The Secretary of State or the Viceroy for the time being is a mere administrator to give effect to the behest of the nation. Individual likes or dislikes have no place in this arrangement. So it is a mistake to hold any individual member of the Government responsible for the partition. British interest demands this partition and before it all other considerations must of necessity dwindle into one of secondary importance.



Whatever party may come to power in England—Liberal or Conservative—it is almost certain that they will hardly think it worth their while to disturb the arrangement made by Lord Curzon with the sanction of the Home authorities. Continuity of policy is the distinguishing feature of the British Government, at least in its foreign and colonial affairs, whichever party may be put at the helm of affairs. It is only ministers of towering influence—men like Gladstone and Disraeli—who can be expected to chalk out a new line of policy. As every student of English politics knows, the present generation of British politicians are all mediocre men who, as such, will dare not betake themselves to a new path. So we are doomed to disappointment.

Then the question arises, what is to be done now? We pause for a reply. The whole country is anxiously waiting for the reply. We confess, we do not think ourselves competent to give any opinion either way at this stage. We are not in the confidence of the Calcutta leaders who are guiding the agitation. They are likely to know more accurately than ourselves as to what is going on in the innermost recesses of the India Government. The above are only surmises; at best, intelligent surmises. They are to be taken as such—nothing more or less than that.

38. Commenting on the reply of Lord Minto to the address of the Indian Association, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd January says:—

Lord Minto's reply to the address of the Indian Association.

It is said that the reply disappointed many, but there is a native proverb that "the Bengalis will never desist from arguing," and so long as the general election does not come to an end, and the ministry does not publish their final decision on the "Partition," the Bengalis will continue to clamour as they have still some hopes.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Jan. 22nd, 1906.

39. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd January writes that many people have lost all hope after hearing how Lord Minto expressed himself on the partition question in his late reply to the address of the Indian Association.

Lord Minto's reply to the address of the Indian Association.

But there is no special cause for losing hope. His Excellency had in fact no alternative but to give the reply that he did, considering the manner in which the partition question was presented before him. His Lordship spoke in that manner in order to save the prestige of the Governments of India and of Eastern Bengal and Assam. But one should bear in mind that the Viceroy's decision on the partition question is not the final decision. The new Secretary of State for India and the new Cabinet have not yet given their final opinion on this question. So, if the people now remain inactive under the impression that the partition is irrevocable then this measure, which has caused such heart-burning among them, will never be withdrawn.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Jan. 23rd, 1906.

Just, as on the one hand, the improvement of the indigenous arts and industries must be worked out with zeal, so, on the other, the lamentable condition of the country and the tyranny of the officials here must be brought to the notice of the Government and the people who are the arbiters of India's destinies. The Indians are a subject race, and it is therefore naturally difficult for them to get a hearing. It will not do for them to retire with offended dignity if they do not get a ready and quick compliance with their demands. The annulment of the partition is a sacred national vow of the Bengalis, which must be fulfilled, no matter what time it takes. Governments and opinions are both subject to change, so who can declare that the Partition is irrevocable?

40. With reference to the dismissal of 63 clerks in Eastern Bengal, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 20th January says:—

The dismissal of certain Hindu clerks in Eastern Bengal

Sir B. Fuller, the Lieutenant-Governor of Eastern Bengal, has by a notification dismissed 63 clerks of the Barisal Settlement Department. If these clerks have been dismissed simply for refusing to act under Mr. Jack, we are at a loss to find why they have been disabled for employment under Government in any other capacity. That the poor clerks should have been dismissed and no notice taken of the high-handedness of the superior officer is a thing quite unheard of before.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Jan. 20th, 1906.

41. The *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 21st January is glad to hear that Government has remitted the land revenue due from the sufferers from the Kangra earthquake; it further

Government's generosity.

HITVARTA,  
Jan. 21st, 1906.



expresses its satisfaction at the fact that the Government will compensate those jagirdars whose incomes have suffered by the remission of one year's rent.

HITAVADI,  
Jan. 21st, 1906.

42. Referring to the coming Budget, the same paper says:—

As Lord Curzon is not here this year it is probable that there may not be a hot discussion on the Budget. Lord Minto does not like empty talk. It remains to be seen what he

will do for the good of the people.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Jan. 24th, 1906

43. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 24th January points to the example of Japan, where famine has made its appearance, and calls for a prohibition of the continued export of rice and other food-grains from the districts of Eastern Bengal in the face of the famine conditions which in its opinion now prevail in that part of the country.

DAILY HITAVADI

44. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 24th January, writing from Ratanpur, district Khulna, draws the attention of the Director-General of the Post Office

A postal complaint.

of India to the necessity of pointing out to certain post masters that the late order against the penmarking of postage stamps does not apply in the case of embossed envelopes and post-cards. It is said that some post-masters do not understand this, and the public have suffered in consequence in some instances.

#### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Jan. 20th, 1906.

45. In reviewing an article on Maharaja Colonel Sir Pratap Singh in the *Arya Gazette*, an Urdu paper of the Punjab, in

The Maharaja of Jodhpur.

which the courage and bearing of that Prince has been highly extolled, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 20th January says:—Sir Pratap Singh is really a hero, and what the correspondent of the aforesaid Punjab paper writes about him is quite correct. But along with bravery he has one failing in his character, which does not allow him to enjoy the benefit of his courage, and that is his extreme loyalty to the British. One must be loyal, but not at the cost of his own interests and honour. In doing so Maharaja Pratap has not only sacrificed his interest, but, in the opinion of many, his honour as well.

It is a pity that many persons do not know the present condition of Jodhpur. As has been stated above, the mind of Sir Pratap was greatly affected by the ill-treatment to which his nephew and his brother's *ranis* (wives) were subjected a few months ago. Do the readers know what that ill-treatment to which we allude was?—It was the expulsion of his nephew, Maharaj Arjun Singh, the Commander-in-Chief of Jodhpur, together with his mother and *ranis* on the slightest pretext. But there is yet another and a greater evil than this—it is the present condition of the Maharaja of Jodhpur. Some time ago, His Highness was not allowed to stay within his own territory; but although he is now living within his own State, the chief control of the Raj is in the hands of the British Resident, and under his directions Pandit Sukdeva Prasad carries on the administration of Jodhpur, while the Maharaja either plays at polo or at times goes out hunting. His Highness spends the night in the Fort, but in the morning returns to his bungalow. Either the English or the native guardian is his constant attendant: the latter, of course, is the creature of Pandit Sukdeva Prasad. The Maharaja is not allowed to talk to anybody: if anybody comes to pay his respects to the Maharaja, he must do so from a distance and retire. It is said that in the case of a few men written agreement has been taken that they would not only not go near the Maharaja but that they would not have any communication with His Highness on any subject either in writing or by signs or symbols. Many people being thus hard pressed have given up even paying their respects to him. Many years have elapsed since the Maharaja attained majority, but he is being kept in a condition worse than that of a minor. The Indians do not like that the Rajputs should become mean flatterers. But it may be allowed if it be productive of some good. In spite of his high-sounding title, "the Chief of His Royal Highness's Staff," Maharaja Pratap could not save his nephew, Arjun Singh from indignity or secure ruling powers for himself.



## V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

46. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 16th January says that this year famine will appear in its severest form in the Mymensingh district. Already every article of food has become very dear. In Mymensingh town mustard oil is selling at Rs. 25 per maund.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Jan. 16th, 1906.

Famine apprehended in Mymensingh.

47. The *Khulnavasi* [Khulna] of the 20th January writes that it looks as if a famine affecting all Bengal will occur this year. The paddy crop in Backergunge has been largely a failure; the northern parts of the Province have also yielded scanty harvests, and the small outturns of the southern parts cannot feed the entire Province. The price of rice in the neighbourhood of Bagerhat now varies from Rs. 4-8 to Rs. 4-12 per maund, where it used to be Rs. 3-2 in former years, and it seems as if it will still further increase.

KHULNAVASI,  
Jan. 20th, 1906.

48. In noticing the condition of the crops in the United Provinces, the *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 21st January says:—The attention of the United Provinces and the Bombay Governments is now directed towards the alleviation of famine within their respective jurisdictions, but Sir B. Fuller, the Lieutenant-Governor of Eastern Bengal, is absorbed in his receptions, Gurkha rule, punitive police, and oppression of the students, and has no idea of a famine.

HITVARTA,  
Jan. 21st, 1906.

Famine in East Bengal.

## VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

49. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 18th January writes that in the opinion of Sir Roper Lethbridge, as expressed in a late article in a Madras magazine, the *Swades* for the Bengalis is the entire British Empire. This means that the Bengalis are to call South Africa, where they are kicked and cuffed, and Australia from which they are shut out like cats and dogs and England, the people of which are wholly indifferent to their sorrows, their *Swades*. When in difficulties, the English always go about saying that the Indians are British subjects exactly as they themselves are. But when the Indian demands the rights of British subjects, the English turn round and say that they conquered him by the sword and that he is their subject.

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 18th, 1906.

50. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 19th January says that those people who act against the interests of the country by purchasing foreign articles or inducing others to do so should be marked out for social punishment and no opportunity should be lost to convince them of the power of society to punish all traitors to the motherland.

DAILY HITAVADI,  
Jan. 19th, 1906.

51. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 19th January writes that it has started an association under the name of the *Swadeshi Mandali* with the object of ensuring the permanence of the *Swadeshi* agitation. The associations which already exist in the country work with the object of gaining the favour of Government in the interests of the few and of bringing the country completely into line with *Feringheedom*. The organisers and supporters of these associations deny the existence of any education or competence in the masses in this country, and are not prepared to be guided by their opinions either. Hence the need of this *Swadeshi Mandali*, which is to be composed of representatives of all classes of people from all parts of the country. This *Mandali* will in all its acts be guided by the principles of self-reliance and self-respect. It will do nothing which may encourage any tendency to rely on the strength of others. Membership is conditional on an annual minimum subscription of a rupee per head. A hundred members from each district in Bengal are required. These district members are to elect an Advisory Committee, whose decisions, as the elects of the public, are to be accepted as the behests of the entire people of the country. It is to be hoped that all well-wishers of the land will assist in making this *Mandali* a success.

SANDHYA,  
Jan. 19th, 1906.

A *Swadeshi Mandali*.



**MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,**  
Jan. 19th, 1906.

52. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 19th January writes :—

Musalmans and the *Swadeshi*  
agitation.

Thanks to the *Swadeshi* agitation, we have seen many things hitherto unthought of and unseen. The course of action which the Hindus have adopted in this connection is most reprehensible. The manner in which they have deluded the public with lies is most surprising. Unfortunately it is the leaders of the Hindu Community, proud of their education, who are betraying their real character by acting in this reprehensible manner. Is this the result of their high education? Is the country to be saved by the adoption of such dishonest courses of action?

The English-educated Hindus have placed such disgusting representations of the doings of the English officials before the ordinary public as to have created disaffection in their minds towards Government. They have set the rulers and the ruled completely by the ears. By pouring out venom incessantly in the Native Press, they have excited and are exciting the minds of the public. They have referred to big Musalman zamindars and high-placed and highly-educated men as nobodies, while they have proclaimed as men of a very high order the one or two insignificant and low pests of society who have joined with them either for money or for notoriety. They have gratified many by conferring on them the title of Maulvi. We challenge the Hindu leaders of the *Swadeshi* agitation to point to one real Maulvi among the Musalmans who have joined that agitation in Calcutta.

The poorer Musalmans have been heavy losers by the action of the Hindus in the present agitation. By buying country-made cloth for English-made ones, and artificial *karkach* from Jedda-Muscat for Liverpool salt, these poor men have, in the course of the last few months, been compelled to put lakhs' worth of rupees into the pockets of Hindu and English merchants. Except a small number of weavers in Bengal, no other class of Musalman artizans exists; so, what interest have the Musalmans in the extended sale of country-made goods?

The antecedents of the Musalmans who have joined the Hindus in this agitation will not bear publicity. Included in their number are all sorts of swindlers and pests of society.

**HITVARTA,**  
Jan. 21st, 1906.

53. In an article headed "the *Swadeshi* problem," the *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 21st January has the following :—

The *swadeshi* problem.

The Marwari merchants of Calcutta have forgotten their vows, and thereby stained their honour. They are now making contracts with the English weavers, but the latter are not satisfied with this concession, and have raised the prices of piece-goods by 15 per cent. this year, and it is on this account that some of the Marwaris are hesitating to enter into contracts. The violation of their pledges made some time ago has lowered them in the estimation of the English merchants.

In the course of the same article the above paper continues to say, that the favour of Lord Curzon has opened the eyes of the Bengalis just now, and the rod of the Gurkhas has borne good fruit. The Bengalis have learnt to appreciate coarse cloth. Besides this, the partition and the views expressed by His Excellency Lord Minto regarding Sir Bampfylde Fuller's oppression in Eastern Bengal, will teach many to depend on their own resources. It is now being arranged to outcast those who use English made cloth, by cutting off all communication with them.

It is hoped that the people of India will give encouragement to native traders by using native cloth for some time longer. Those who disregarding the signs of the times are making contracts with English weavers for the purchase of their piece-goods, will have to repent soon.

**BHARAT MITRA,**  
Jan. 20th, 1906.

54. In noticing the Royal gift of Rs. 1,500 each to the Durbar Saheb of Amritsar, the Juma Masjid of Delhi, and the Church of Calcutta, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta]

The Prince of Wales's charities.

of the 20th instant observes:—The Prince has hitherto made no present to any Hindu Temple, but it is probable that His Royal Highness may make a similar present to the Golden Temple at Benares.



## URIYA PAPERS.

55. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 11th January states that the temperature went down in the last week. *SAMVAD VAHIKA*, Jan. 7th, 1906.  
The weather in Balasore.
56. The same paper states that the health of the Balasore town is good. *SAMVAD VAHIKA*.
57. The same paper is sorry to learn that the foot and mouth disease prevails among cattle in various parts of the Balasore district. *SAMVAD VAHIKA*.
58. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 13th January states that the coolness of the weather increased in the last week and that a little fog is visible in the morning. *UTKALDIPIKA*, Jan. 13th, 1906.  
The weather in Cuttack.
59. The same paper states that the mango blossoms are abundant, and that a good mango crop is expected. *UTKALDIPIKA*.
60. The *Manorama* [Baripada] of the 8th January draws the attention of the local authorities to the rising prices of paddy and rice and their effect on the economical condition of the Mayurbhanj people. *MANORAMA*, Jan. 8th, 1906.  
The rising prices of paddy and rice in Mayurbhanj.
61. The same paper regrets to note that the number of thefts is increasing in Mayurbhanj. *MANORAMA*.
62. The same paper reports a fire in Kochilakhunta in Barpara in Mayurbhanj that consumed many houses. *MANORAMA*.
63. The same paper states that a Santhal resident of Dantiamuha in Mayurbhanj was killed by a bear. *MANORAMA*.
64. The same paper states that the Jubaraj of Kharial seized a tiger alive by means of a wooden trap. *MANORAMA*.
65. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 13th January states that a great fire took place in Lanjigarh, destroying property of great value. *GARJATBASINI*, Jan. 13th, 1906.  
A fire in Lanjigarh.
66. The *Kendupatna* correspondent of the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 13th January states that the people residing in tracts between Chitrotpala and Luni are in great distress, due to the failure of their paddy crop. *UTKALDIPIKA*, Jan. 13th, 1906.  
Distress in Cuttack.
67. The same correspondent states that the delivery peon of the Kendupatna Sub-post Office does not go the round of his beats regularly, and that this causes public inconvenience. *UTKALDIPIKA*.
68. The *Manorama* [Baripada] of the 8th January recommends the administration of Bamra to the notice of the Mayurbhanj authorities, and observes that an economical and honest management conducted in the style is what is best suited to the interests of the people in the Orissa Garjats. *MANORAMA*, Jan. 8th, 1906.  
Bamra administration highly spoken of.
69. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 10th January regrets to find that so many as 63 Hindu clerks belonging to the Secretariat of Eastern Bengal and Assam were dismissed on a sudden without any explanation, and observes that this anti-Hindu rule of the new Lieutenant-Governor will produce its natural consequence in due course, namely, want of confidence in the British sense of justice. *URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD*, Jan. 10th, 1906.  
The dismissal of certain Hindu clerks in Eastern Bengal.
70. The same paper regrets to learn that constable Mir Mahamad and the writer-constable Fakir Khan butchered a milch cow in the compound of the Mahanga out-post in the presence of several Hindus because the cow did  
A milch cow slaughtered in a police out-post in Cuttack. *URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD*.



not give milk. The attention of the District Superintendent of Police and the District Magistrate of Cuttack is drawn to this cruel and atrocious deed, perpetrated in a public place.

GARJATABASINI  
Jan. 13th, 1906.

71. The *Garjatabasini* [Talcher] of the 13th January is glad to learn that the Postal Department of the Madras Government has arranged to employ educated Uriyas in that Department, and hopes that all available candidates should lose no time in submitting their applications.

Prospects of the Uriyas in the Postal Department of Madras.

GARJATABASINI,

72. The same paper regrets to find that a dismissed servant of a Deputy Magistrate in Cuttack having brought a suit in the Cuttack Munsif's Court against his late master, the pleaders practising in that Court were so afraid of the Deputy Magistrate that none of them dared represent the plaintiff in that suit. What a sad comment on the independence of the Cuttack Bar!

A story of the Cuttack Bar being afraid of a Cuttack Deputy Magistrate.

GARJATABASINI.

73. The same paper states that the last Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition in Angul passed off quietly under the direction of Mr. Duke, Superintendent of Tributary States, Orissa, and that the presence of the Rajas of Pal Lahera and Talcher added to the success of the undertaking. The speech of Mr. Duke, explaining the object of the exhibition, was very much appreciated.

The Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition in Angul.

GARJATABASINI.

Mr. Duke's inspection of the Talcher State office.

74. The same paper states that Mr. Duke paid a short visit to Talcher and was satisfied with the work of the Raja of that State.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
Jan. 13th, 1906.

75. Referring to the donation of Rs. 90,000 to the Medical College Hospital and of Rs. 10,000 to the Lady Dufferin Hospital by the Prince of Wales out of the funds supplied by the Maharaja of Darbhanga, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 13th January observes that the Maharaja should have requested His Royal Highness to spend the amount on some work of public utility, thereby perpetuating the memory of the Prince's visit to Bengal.

Donations to the Medical College Hospital and Lady Dufferin Hospital, Calcutta, criticised.

UTKALDIPIKA.

76. The same paper has every sympathy with the proposed Hindu University at Benares, and exhorts all Indians to contribute their mite towards the object, for the University, though styled Hindu, will be open to Muhammadans and Christians, without distinction.

The proposed Hindu University at Benares.

UTKALDIPIKA

77. The same paper is of opinion that the case of Amirudin, a native of Backergunge, who killed his children while asleep and who attempted to kill his wife, because with all his exertions he could not find sufficient food for them, betrays the poverty of the people in that district and indicates scarcity of food therein. The writer hopes that Sir B. Fuller will devote his attention to a study of the economical condition of the people in his charge instead of wasting his energy in the suppression of *swadeshi*.

A piece of salutary advice to Sir B. Fuller.

UTKALDIPIKA.

78. The same paper regrets that the Prince of Wales did not visit the native quarters of the Calcutta town, and was therefore not in a position to carry away correct impressions about Calcutta. The advisers of His Royal Highness did not act wisely.

The Prince of Wales's procession through Calcutta streets criticised.

UTKALDIPIKA.

79. The same paper draws the attention of the Indian and the British public to the address of Mr. Gokhale at Benares, and observes that the speech is so correct and able as to repay careful perusal.

Mr. Gokhale's address at Benares.



ASSAM PAPERS.

80. After referring to the prevalence of cholera in an epidemic form in almost all parts of Sylhet district at the present time, the *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 17th January suggests that the recurrence of such epidemics at the close of every winter is due to the lack of any purer supply of drinking-water than that of river water which, with the advent and progress of winter, gets more and more sluggish and polluted with dead bodies of animals and human excreta.

PARIDARSAK,  
Jan. 17th, 1906.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 27th January 1906.







# REPORT (PART II)

## ON

### NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

#### FOR THE

#### Week ending Saturday, 27th January 1906.

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## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

89. The *Bengalee* writes that from a statement made by the Chinese Minister in London it would appear that China has no intention of leaving Tibet a prey to England, but proposes to administer it as one of her own provinces, thus obviating the chances of any movement, hostile to England, emanating from Tibet itself. England wants commercial facilities and not territorial acquisition, and the Chinese Government will give her all she wants. The journal does not see how England can gainsay the reasonableness of these proposals, and doubts whether any Liberal Foreign Secretary will do so. Thus, one of Lord Curzon's proudest achievements is likely to be forgotten within a few months of his departure from India, the only memorials of the expedition being its cost of a crore and a half borne by India and the idols and images brought from Lhasa.

BENGALUR,  
25th Jan. 1908.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a) — Police.

90. The *Bengalee* characterises the conduct of the local police in connection with the meeting held at Serajganj on January 14th as *goondism*, pure and simple. Like professional *goondas*, they attempted to frighten innocent people, but when the latter showed a bold front, the police were not to be seen. It is time that the bullying propensities of the Serajganj police were curbed, and the people permitted to enjoy the unalienable rights of citizenship. The rumour is, says the journal, that the Subdivisional Officer who was to have gone on tour the day the meeting was to be held, cancelled his arrangements and convened a meeting of the European residents of the town. The result has not transpired.

BENGALUR,  
17th Jan. 1908.

It would perhaps surprise Sir Bampfylde Fuller and his Chief Secretary, whose 'leonine roar has been reverberating from one end of the new Province to the other,' that the Serajganj police, on being questioned as to why they did not carry out their threat and punish those who attended the meeting, heartily cursed their lot in having to serve a "weak and irresolute Government" and one that did not know its own mind. This is the light in which the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam appears even to policemen, and rightly, for the chameleon-like consistency which has characterised the proceedings of the authorities at Rajshahi and Serajganj would lower any Government in the eyes of its people.

91. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that the Midnapore (Satirhat) *swadeshi* case in which the police did all in their power to secure the conviction of the accused, Jagadish Das Adhikari, Baikunta Nath Shee and others, provides an object-lesson which should not be lost sight of at the present crisis. The trying Magistrate, who is believed to be a very strict and convicting officer, delivered a lengthy judgment in which he could not but blame the police for connecting the accused with the *swadeshi* movement in order to secure their conviction. Could there be a sadder commentary on the present criminal administration of the country? It is said that the police were at first prepared to report the case as false, but for some unknown reason they subsequently pursued the investigation with unusual vigour. The fact that the accused were challaned 14 days after the occurrence corroborates this in a manner. In all the *swadeshi* or so-called *swadeshi* cases that have so far been reported, the police have exhibited an amount of zeal—more rightly *zid*—that would bring about a new era of efficiency and protection were it better and more legitimately applied.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
20th Jan. 1908

Scarcely, however, has the case referred to above been concluded, when another is reported from Terapakhia, in the same district. It would appear that a complaint was filed before the District Magistrate to the effect that the *daroga* of the *hat*, an employé of the Mahisadal Raj, had intimidated certain salt dealers who were selling Liverpool salt. It is said that the Salt officers had a hand in the petition. A judicial inquiry was ordered, and although several weeks have elapsed, no further development has been observed. The experience gained in the Satirhat case, however, does not justify the



conclusion that the case has been closed, for official zeal might break out at any moment and lead to the arrest of the suspected parties.

INDIAN MIRROR,  
24th Jan. 1906.

92. The *Indian Mirror's* Mymensingh correspondent writes that, although it is more than two months ago that Babu Gobind Kumar Chowdhuri, *naib* of Rani Hemant Kumari

of Puthia, was murdered in the Chalora catcherry, the police have not been able to detect the culprits. Chalora is about 14 miles from Mymensingh and about 2 miles from Muktagacha, where so many big zamindars reside, and it is therefore strange indeed that the murder has not been detected. The writer appeals to the Inspector-General of Police to depute a detective to unravel the case.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
20th Jan. 1906.

93. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that, although official high-handedness at Bonaripara and Narottampur has been subjected to repeated exposure, the situation in

those villages of the Backergunge district remains unchanged. Recently, some members of the punitive force snatched away a fish from the hands of a villager and are alleged to have severely assailed the latter when he had the hardihood to protest against their conduct! The man came to Perozpur to move the Criminal Courts, but when he was informed of the result of a similar complaint filed by one Keshab Chunder Banerjee against the punitive police, he gave up all idea of seeking justice at the hands of the Subdivisional Officer. The situation is one of which no Englishman need be proud. Moreover, can any reason be assigned for quartering punitive police at Bonaripara, beyond the alleged escapade of a few urchins who are reported to have thrown clods of earth in the direction of the Magistrate's boat? Assuming this to be true, is an entire village to be punished for the offence of a few irresponsible children? The journal again draws the prominent attention of His Excellency the Viceroy to this injustice, which would find a parallel nowhere in the civilised world. Unbearable as the position is, the people are utterly helpless. "If, like the Irish people, they had some country to migrate to, and there nurse their hatred for the English, they would perhaps have done so; but they have now lived under the British Raj for nigh upon 200 years, and it is not possible for them to leave their homes and associations so dear to them and to give up their love for their English masters. What, then, can they possibly do? Where can they go, to whom can they apply, if not to the illustrious representative of their august Emperor, to rescue them from the awful position into which they have been thrown by the unprecedented action of the local authorities?"

(b)—Working of the Courts.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
19th Jan. 1906.

94. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that in three short months the present Criminal Bench of the High Court have accomplished the Herculean task of not only disposing of the 100 cases left on the file of their predecessors, but clearing their current file as well. This splendid achievement as regards speed, says the journal, is due to the irregular way in which cases are disposed of and to the fact that few rules are issued and very few appeals admitted. The inevitable result is to minimise the number of cases more and more. This has naturally caused consternation in the public mind, as it is to the High Court that the aggrieved always turn for justice and protection against official high-handedness.

There is another matter to which the journal draws attention, namely, the extra-judicial remarks in which Mr. Justice Brett indulges in now and then. These remarks are neither edifying nor pleasing, and hardly fit in with the dignity and gravity of the highest Court in the land.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
20th Jan. 1906.

95. When the High Court rejected the application of the Madaripur students praying for the transfer of their case from the file of the Sub-divisional Officer, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* appealed to the latter, as a self-respecting and fair-minded Judge, to decline to try the case, seeing that the accused had no confidence in him. Mr. Briscoe did not do so, and during the trial assumed an attitude that prejudiced the accused. At 5 P.M. on the



15th instant, he framed charges against them and called upon the defence pleader to cross-examine the prosecution witnesses. He was then too unwell to do so and applied for an adjournment of a day. This petition was dismissed, and had not the prosecution pleader intimated to the Court that he would not under the circumstances object to an adjournment, legal help would have been withheld from the accused when it was most urgently needed. Truly the administration of justice in India is a farce.

96. The apprehension that the demoralisation and deterioration of the public services would be one of the attendant evils of the partition is to-day, says the *Bengalee*, a grim reality. One executive officer after another has been making himself 'meanly ridiculous' in the crusade against *swadeshi*, and the contagion has even spread to the Judiciary. In this connection the journal publishes a full report of the passage-at-arms that took place between Mr. Cargill, District and Sessions Judge of Backergunge, and a pleader, from which it would appear that the former rejected an appeal preferred against the decision of Mr. Bentinck, Joint-Magistrate, in a case in which "the Gurkha Captain" is alleged to have trespassed into the house of the complainant and assaulted him. The learned Judge urged that the accused only entered the mukhtear's *baitakhana* which is a public part of the house, and as regards the assault said that it was well known that the Gurkhas were stationed at Barisal to stop the shouting of *Bande Mataram* as directed by the Government circular. The case was accordingly dismissed as "further inquiry would be useless." The *Bengalee* is unable to admire either Mr. Cargill's logic or law. "Assuming that the Gurkhas had been imported for the express purpose of stopping the shouting of *Bande Mataram*, were they on that account at liberty to do anything and everything—to trespass upon any private grounds and into any private rooms, to assault passers-by indiscriminately in the streets, and to obtain their supplies without payment? The learned Judge apparently thinks that the *baitakhana* of a mukhtear is a public place which one may enter against the wishes of its owner with impunity. We, however, fully agree with Mr. Cargill in his observation that 'further inquiry would be useless.' In the present temper of both the Judicial and the Executive mind, any inquiry would, we fear, be useless."

BENGALIAN,  
21st Jan. 1906.

Mr. Woodhead, Assistant  
Magistrate of Mymensingh.

97. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is shocked at the heartless and inhuman manner in which the sentence of whipping inflicted by Mr. Woodhead, Assistant Magistrate of Mymensingh, on Husain Ali, a boy of 13 years who was charged with theft, was carried out in contravention of the provision of the law. In the first place, Mr. Woodhead being a second-class Magistrate was not empowered to pass a sentence of whipping. After doing so, however, he forwarded the record of the case to the District Magistrate for confirmation of the sentence. This, too, was illegal, as section 349, Criminal Procedure Code, contains no such provision. The accused's pleader then appeared before the District Magistrate and pointed out the illegality of the Assistant Magistrate's action, but without result. Before moving the District Judge in the matter, he saw Mr. Woodhead and begged him to postpone the execution of the sentence, as he intended moving the Appellate Court. This reasonable request was also rejected and the pleader hastened to the Judge's Court, where he obtained an order directing the Assistant Magistrate to submit the papers in connection with the case. This, however, was of little avail, as the sentence of whipping had already been carried out. 'This young officer, while in England, was, we dare say, if not an angel, an ordinary human being. What is he now?'

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
22nd Jan. 1906.

98. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that the public rejoicing occasioned by the release of Babus Indro Chunder and Bepin Chunder Guha, who were convicted in the Habibpur salt case and sentenced to one month's imprisonment each, ought to produce a wholesome effect on the authorities who are despotically inclined. The authorities doubtless thought that by imprisoning these two men they would not only disgrace them for ever, but deal a severe blow to the *swadeshi* movement. The result, however, must have been very disappointing, for the two 'martyrs' on their release, received an ovation that is likely to make Sir

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
23rd Jan. 1906.



Bamyfylde Fuller envious. As for harming the *swadeshi* movement, well, there are hundreds who are coveting the fate of Babus Indra and Bipin Chandra. A few more such sentences and the apathetic people of this country will rise to a man to do their duty. Needless to say, these victims of official high-handedness have aroused feelings of patriotism in the breasts of tens of thousands of our people. Of course, they were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment, but that does not prove that they were guilty. On the other hand, the universal feeling is that they have been the victims of official passion and prejudice."

BENGALUR,  
25th Jan. 1906.

99. "Sufferer," writing to the *Bengalee*, brings to the notice of the authorities the following grievances of the Honorary Magistrates of Serampur, who during the last decade have rendered such continuous and valuable help to the Subdivisional Officer that Government have thought fit to reduce the number of Stipendiaries by one and thereby have saved nearly Rs. 6 000 a year.

As a rule two Benches sit every day and sometimes three or four, but there is only one court-room. The result is that the Honorary Magistrates who render gratuitous service to Government are put to great inconvenience for want of accommodation. If they are fortunate enough to procure a place somewhere there is the standing difficulty as regards securing the services of a Bench Clerk and a *chaprasi*, there being only one Bench Clerk and one *chaprasi* for all the Benches. Finally, the Honorary Magistrate's court-room is never swept and can be best described as a 'repository for broken things—the castaways of Stipendiary *hakims* and their *amlas*.'

(e.—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*)

BENGALUR,  
25th Jan. 1906.

100. The *Bengalee* draws the attention of Government to the letter of Babu Lal Mohan Mukerjee on the Howrah Municipality. The most noticeable point in the letter is that, although the population of Howrah has increased from 116,606 in 1891 to nearly two lakhs in 1904-05, the number of rate-payers has remained nearly stationary, being 16,765 in 1892-93 or 14·4 per cent. of the total population, 16,325 in 1895-96 or 14 per cent., and 16,984 in 1901-05 or 10·77 per cent. of the total population, taking the entire population to be 157,594 as shown in the last census of 1900, although in the last four years it has considerably increased. These figures show that the coolie population, or the immigrant population, as they are described in the census returns, enjoy the comforts of town life at the expense of the resident rate-payers, who are over-taxed and have to make heavy sacrifices, owing to the increased municipal requirements, to keep the town clean. It further appears from the figures given by the correspondent, that a far greater quantity of sullage water remains unremoved, and the Municipality has not the capacity nor the funds to remove the same. The cheap labour that is available in Howrah goes to swell the dividends of capitalists and mill owners in Howrah who enjoy the advantages of being near Calcutta. But it is intolerable to the resident rate-payers, who suffer all the disadvantages of overcrowding.

The journal understands that Dr. Grierson and Mr. Duke, two former Chairmen of the Municipality, were fully alive to the gravity of the situation and had proposed that a head-tax of one rupee should be levied on the immigrant population. The Divisional Commissioner sanctioned this arrangement, which was estimated to yield an annual income of Rs. 40,000, but the matter has apparently been shelved. The attention of Government is drawn to the serious state of affairs in Howrah, in the hope that some means will soon be devised to remedy its present insanitary state.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

BENGALUR,  
17th Jan. 1906.

101. The *Bengalee* writes that the complaint addressed by one Bemola Charn Bhattacharjee to the District Traffic Superintendent, Sealdah, reveals a state of things that would not be credited anywhere out of India. It seems that the young man referred to was leaving Krishnagar for Calcutta by the midnight train of the



15th December, and as he had no time to buy a ticket, informed the Station Master accordingly, put his luggage into a compartment, and went to speak to the guard about the payment of his fare. In the meantime the train appearing to start, he jumped into the nearest compartment intending to speak to the guard at the next station. About a mile from the Krishnagar station, the train stopped, and the guard came up to the compartment in which the complainant was travelling, dragged him out, and in spite of his entreaties, would not permit him to take out his belongings which were in another carriage. The Babu walked back to the station and reported the matter to the Station Master, who wired to Birnagar to have the complainant's box taken out, but no such box could be found. The complainant subsequently wired to the Station Master, Sealdah, for the missing box and came down to Calcutta by the first available train. On making enquiries at Sealdah he was told that no box of the description he gave could be found. It may be added that this box contained practically all that the young man possesses and that he was coming to Calcutta in search of employment. The *Bengalee* characterises the conduct of the guard as absolutely unjustifiable, and strongly appeals to the District Traffic Superintendent to take the necessary steps for the recovery of the complainant's luggage.

## (h)—General.

102. The *Hindoo Patriot* dealing with the Government of India's Resolution on plague, considers that the Resolution is a

The Government of India's Resolution on plague.

confession on the part of the Government of India of not having done all that ought to have been done to prevent the spread of plague. Sanitary measures, it is held, have been taken up in a perfunctory manner; sanitary improvements call for larger expenditure than has yet been granted, and it is time that the Government of India, Local Governments, and Municipalities spent more freely upon sanitary improvements. The Government is thanked for regarding "popular prejudices and the varying habits and customs of people of different places."

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
20th Jan. 1906.

103. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that the first public utterances of a ruler are invariably regarded by the people as an indication of the policy he means to introduce.

The Fuller administration.

Thus, what kind of a policy must the people be prepared for after having heard Sir Bampfylde Fuller's threatening and discourteous utterances at Barisal? Is it likely to be the old, time-honoured policy which fostered constitutional agitation? No, if his words indicated any policy at all, it was that the people of Eastern Bengal and Assam would, during his tenure of office, be subjected to a thoroughly un-British rule. In short, Sir Bampfylde Fuller's entire attitude at Barisal was opposed to law, authority, precedent, and the ordinary rules of good manners and decency. The people therefore can hardly be blamed if, after knowing what was in store for them, they did not accept the inevitable with a good grace.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
20th Jan. 1906.

104. Continuing its retrospect of Sir Bampfylde Fuller's administration, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* adds that the measures of the last few months were exactly what was to

*Ibid.*

be expected from such a ruler. His methods are without precedent in the excellent history of 'Bengal under the Lieutenant-Governors,' and supply the best justification for the sentimental apprehensions of the people that the partition of their country was likely to affect them in more ways than one: 'It was in Bengal that British rule earned its first laurels, and it is in Bengal where the first note of impeachment has been raised.' It is not an impeachment of any individual, but of a policy.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA  
22nd Jan. 1906

105. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* makes the following definite pronouncement on the partition question and challenges the advocates of partition to controvert it:—

A Governor and Council for Bengal.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
23rd Jan. 1906.

"The situation then is this: A constitution was given to Bengal by a Parliamentary Act in 1833, which was confirmed in 1853 by another Parliamentary Act, whereby she is entitled to the rule of a Governor and Council. These Acts are still in force. What the Government has done is to divide Bengal into two, and place the two divisions under two Lieutenant-Governors. This is illegal, as the constitution of Bengal, which is based upon Parliamentary Statutes, cannot be broken up by the Government of India, either in its



executive or legislative capacity, and substituted by another constitution, without the sanction of Parliament. Lord Curzon could break up Bengal into two and appoint two Lieutenant-Governors for the management of its affairs as a new edition of the Great Moghul, but not as the representative of a constitutional Government like that of England.

Thus, it is clear that the people of Bengal are entitled, under the law, to the administration of a Governor and a Council, and it is a great pity that they are not fully aware of it, although the boon of a superior administration was conferred on them nearly 75 years ago. It is a greater pity that during the fierce controversy over the partition question, this fact was not brought prominently forward. Let the people now awake from their lethargy, and at the forthcoming Town Hall meeting, let 'thousands of throats demand the long-deferred Governorship and Council which the English Government is bound to bestow upon this Presidency under Parliamentary Acts, and which is the only measure calculated to remove the seething discontent caused by the partition of Bengal.'

BENGALUR,  
17th Jan. 1906.

106. The *Bengalee* reverts to this subject, as it considers it is full of importance. In the first place, His Excellency has decided, on the strength of the 'ample information' at his disposal, that the recent measures of the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam were 'fully justified.' Now since it is the officials who are charged with acts of lawlessness, their statements as accused persons must be accepted with cautious reserve and modified according to the light thrown upon them by the evidence of the aggrieved parties. This has not been done. On the contrary, a full measure of reliance was placed by His Excellency on the official version of the Eastern Bengal imbroglio. It is for the Viceroy of India, as the representative of the Sovereign, to hold the balance even between the officials and the people, and to assume in regard to official statements that judicial mind which would be expected of the Sovereign himself in deciding the points at issue between the Government and the people. The claims of the latter to sympathetic consideration are far greater and far more urgent, and if in the present case Lord Minto were to make an independent inquiry into the matter, His Excellency would find that the popular version is the correct one.

As regards the partition question, His Excellency remarked that the views of the Association were not "universally shared by the people." On no question has there ever been perfect unanimity, but is it or is it not the case that the views expressed by the Association are those of the vast majority of the people affected?

BENGALUR,  
17th Jan. 1906.

107. Referring to the comments of *Truth* on the way in which the public are being dunned for subscriptions, especially in Mandalay, by the organisers of the receptions that are being accorded to Their Royal Highnesses, the *Bengalee* observes that, while the Indians are truly loyal, they are at the same time among the poorest of nations. The officials in India, however, do not or will not understand this, and resort to cajolery and intimidation in order to extort subscriptions for various objects, even from persons who can ill-afford them.

BENGALUR,  
17th Jan. 1906.

108. The *Bengalee* writes that at a former meeting of the Bengal Council, the necessity for having a hospital for Indians on the same lines as the European General Hospital was urged by Raja Bun Behary Kapur, and His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor held out the hope that the matter would receive his consideration when an opportunity occurred. An opportunity has offered itself now that the Government have at their disposal a sum of Rs. 90,000 for a hospital. An institution on the principle suggested by the Raja should accordingly be started, in order to enable Indians of small means to go there for treatment.

BENGALUR,  
17th Jan. 1906.

109. The *Bengalee* realises that it is yet too premature to talk of a successor to Lord Minto, but nevertheless observes that only about a fortnight ago, the question of appointing a member of the Royal Family to be Viceroy of India, was being seriously discussed in influential circles in England. It appears that, although the matter has not yet been formally brought to the notice of the King or the Government, "His Majesty is believed to regard the scheme favourably."



The proposal is one for and against which much can be said. "A Royal Viceroy is ordinarily expected to be merely an ornamental figure-head, while the administration is to be conducted by his Executive Council which will form the Viceroy's Cabinet. The office of Viceroy of India will in that case be reduced to the status of the Irish Viceroyalty or the Governor-Generalship of Canada. It will mean the glorification and exaltation of the bureaucracy at the expense of the Viceroy. On the other hand, a Royal Viceroy would in certain respects be the very antithesis of a mere place-hunter. As, however, the contingency is in any case a rather remote one, it is unnecessary at present to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of a Royal Viceroy."

110. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is glad that an anti-partition meeting will be held in Calcutta on the 31st January 1906, as

The forthcoming anti-partition meeting,

it will have the dual effect of arousing the people and at the same time removing an impression that

prevails in the highest official circles that the agitation is waning. Further, the Liberals have come into power and the hands of such friends as Mr. Herbert Roberts must be strengthened by evidence showing that the popular opposition to the measure continues. Lastly, unless an opportunity were furnished, the Secretary of State could not reopen the question. A memorial will be adopted for submission to the Secretary of State, in which it must be proved by facts and figures that Bengal is not too heavy a charge for one Lieutenant-Governor. The journal goes on to demonstrate the truth of this by saying that it is the district officers who directly rule the vast population of Bengal, and not the Lieutenant-Governor. The former are responsible to the Commissioners, who in turn are responsible to the Lieutenant-Governor. Similarly, the heads of departments check and supervise everything relating to their respective charges. This relates only to the Executive branch of the administration and not to the Judicial, which is the most important and is under the High Court. Thus the necessity for having two Governors in Bengal is a myth, more especially as the task of administration is rendered infinitely easier than it was in former times, owing to the speedy means of communication with almost every part of the province.

111. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* reproduces a paragraph from the *Pioneer*,

The *Pioneer* and Barisal affairs,

in which that journal uses the unguarded statement of the *Statesman's* Barisal correspondent to prove

that the seething discontent which recently prevailed in that town was due not to maladministration and misgovernment, but to the 'mischievous messages sent down day by day from Calcutta.' The *Patrika* writes that the evident confusion of the *Pioneer*—for it has read Balasore for Barisal no less than five times in the manuscript—'has done one good: it has furnished one more proof of the well-known fact that the Allahabad paper is a tool in the hands of the officials, and that it slavishly publishes anything coming from official sources without due care or inquiry'!

Coming, however, to the allegation itself, the journal writes that the *Statesman* has published a 'distinct disclaimer,' while the special correspondent on whose statement a mischievous construction is being put, has stated that it had never occurred to him that the alleged 'telegraphic messages from Calcutta' would in any way be connected with the Bengal leaders; that he heard of the incident from parties whose names he could not recall, and that he did not make any inquiry as to the correctness of the allegation. Thus it is clear that a mere statement of the *Statesman's* Barisal correspondent has been seized upon in order to lend colour to the official insinuation that the 'state of mutiny' which is said to have prevailed in Barisal was due to 'wire-pullers' in Calcutta.

112. The *Bengales* writes that the meeting that will be held on Wednesday

*Ibid.*

next to consider the partition is significant of the 'grim determination' of the people of Bengal

not to accept the division of their country as an accomplished fact. In their 'supreme unwisdom' the Government have forged a new bond of union, and the feeling against the partition is so deep-rooted that even an adverse decision on the part of the Liberal Government will not eradicate it. On the day of partition, or, as the journal calls it, the 'day of federation,' millions of people took the vow that as long as the Bengali-speaking people were not united the

AMRITA BAZAR  
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BENGALURU,  
13th Jan. 1906.



agitation would continue. It may fail in the life-time of the present generation, but it will be left as a legacy to succeeding generations. The people cannot submit to the outrage upon public sentiment which the partition involves. It is not consistent with their national self-respect to do so, and they are resolved to exhaust the resources of constitutional agitation to gain the end in view. What is more, a community animated by such a strong feeling, in a matter just and righteous, will not only extort the respect of the advocates of the measure, but is bound to succeed in the long run.

BENGALÉE,  
26th Jan. 1906.

113. The fact that another *anti*-partition meeting will be held in Calcutta on the 31st January 1906, after the numerous demonstrations all over India, affords additional proof, says the *Bengalée*, that the country is resolved to leave nothing undone to avert the greatest disaster that has ever befallen it under British rule. Regardless of the fate that awaits the agitation, the people have an obvious duty to perform, namely, to carry on the agitation until the scheme is reversed or modified. No greater or more deliberate affront could have been offered to the public opinion than the partition of their country and the secret manner in which it was conceived, planned, and executed. Had the larger scheme been submitted for public discussion, "it is inconceivable that any responsible administrator would have accepted it in its entirety or would have assented, for instance, to the inclusion of Jalpaiguri and Malda, if not the Rajshahi district also, in the new Province. The distances are so great and the inconveniences so serious, that a proposal affecting the incorporation of these districts into the new Province would forthwith have been condemned. If Malda is included in the new Province, because it is a Bengali-speaking district, why are the Presidency and the Burdwan Divisions, which are also Bengali-speaking Divisions, excluded from it? If it sounds ridiculous to make over the Presidency Division to Assam, we have only to change our standpoint and include Assam in the Presidency Division and make Patna the capital of the new Province. If for administrative symmetry it is necessary to place all the tea districts under one administration, our reply is that administrative symmetry is a paltry consideration when weighed in the balance against national sentiment, and that no administrative inconvenience, so far as we are aware, had ever arisen from having Jalpaiguri under one administration and the other tea districts under another."

Thus it is clear that the case for a reconsideration of the partition question is overwhelmingly strong, and it would be a dereliction of duty not to press for it.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
20th Jan. 1906.

114. The *Hindoo Patriot*, commenting on Sir Henry Cotton's election, says that with his knowledge of Indian affairs and bent upon redressing the wrongs India is suffering from, his services in Parliament will be of incalculable value.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
20th Jan. 1906.

115. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that when, a little more than a decade ago, Mr. W. C. Bonnerji communicated the "glorious news" that the Liberals were again coming into power, the reply was that it was immaterial whether India was ruled by one party or the other, as real Liberalism—the Liberalism of Cobden, Bright, and Spencer—was extinct. The birth and growth in power of the Labourites who are true Liberals have, however, given India every cause for rejoicing. The interests of the Labourites are bound up in the welfare of the masses and are therefore different from the interests of the non-Labourites—the drones, autocrats, and bureaucrats. The Labourites are, therefore, bound to be the sincere friends of the Indians, and if fifty of them can enter Parliament India will be taken care of.

AMRITA BAZAR,  
PATRIKA,  
20th Jan. 1906.

116. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* regards it as significant that almost all the men in power who had a hand in the partition of Bengal have lost their seats in Parliament, and sees in this humiliation the hand of 'retributive justice.' Lord Curzon, the author of the measure, has well-nigh been forgotten by his country, and Mr. Brodrick who was equally guilty has, like his chief, the late Premier, lost his seat. Sir M. Bhowmuggree, who opposed Mr. Herbert Roberts's motion, is also nowhere. Parliament has thus been rid of some of India's bitterest foes. Then what does Sir Bampfylde Fuller think of the election of Sir



Henry Cotton? Did he not issue instructions to his subordinates not to receive Sir Henry when he paid a visit to Assam last year? If Sir Henry Cotton now chose, he could make the life of the modern Shistha Khan as miserable as the latter is making the lives of the people of the new Province. The triumph of the Liberals has doubtless caused the greatest mortification in the ranks of the Civil Service, for each Liberal victory is a new dagger thrust in the heart of the authorities in India.

117. Referring to an article in the *British Trade Review* for January, in which the collapse of the boycott movement in Bengal is referred to, the *Hindoo Patriot* attributes

The *swadeshi* movement.

this result to the tactical blunders of the leaders of the agitation. Had they been steady and consistent and not 'foolishly distracted the attention of the people by launching scheme after scheme, tempted Government to introduce repressive measures which frightened the public, and raised an unholy clamour about wild reports from the new Province, the result would have been more far-reaching.' Their object was not so much to benefit the people as to coerce the Government, and they have thus lost an opportunity that may never come again. There is yet time, however, to improve the situation, provided the people are taught the necessity of buying country goods, the authorities are conciliated, and systematic efforts are made to produce articles at a cheap rate, so as to place them within the reach of the masses. Virulent attacks upon the Lieutenant-Governor of the new Province must cease, and a united effort made to attain the end in view.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
22nd Jan. 1906.

118. It is difficult, says the *Bengalee*, to congratulate the Government on its insight into public questions in general or on its appreciation of the gravity of the present situation

*Ibid.*

in particular, if it is really under the belief that the partition agitation, with all its offshoots, is the work of some interested wire-pullers and that the people in general are at heart either opposed to these movements, or at best only indifferent to them. The journal points out that the remarkable upheaval of national feeling which Bengal has recently witnessed is not only without precedent in this country, but hardly has many parallels in history. It has therefore yet to be shown that such a transformation in the country can be the work of one, two or even half-a-dozen men. The present movement has its leaders just as every other movement has, but Government have apparently quite overlooked the fact that 'large masses of men can scarcely ever be led into courses of conduct for which they have not an inherent liking and which do not embody the truth which they specially need at the time.'

BENGALIAN,  
26th Jan. 1906.

Equally egregious is the fallacy which directly arises from the erroneous impression regarding the partition agitation, that the *swadeshi* movement must naturally be short-lived. There are others who indulge in the consoling reflection that the movement is already dead. The immediate ground for this "preposterous supposition" seems to be that some fresh contracts have been entered into with Manchester. But did not the leaders foresee that the economic aspect of the question would offer difficulties which could not altogether be overcome, except after years of patient and laborious effort? The *swadeshi* movement from its very commencement, appeared to the leaders to be a movement 'pregnant with rich possibilities for the moral regeneration of the country'—a movement destined to effect a great change in the people, and in their ways of viewing the problems of life. This change it has already effected to a degree, and if it did nothing else, it would still be entitled to the lasting gratitude of the people. As a matter of fact, it has done much more. It has given indigenous goods a market which they have not had within the last fifty years. What really remains to be done, however, is to deal with the question of supply, and experts are doing all they can in this direction.

119. It is certain, writes the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, that Mr. Herbert

The partition question in Parliament.

Roberts will take up the partition question once again, not merely in the interests of the Bengalis, but also with a view to vindicating the honour and dignity of Parliament, and he may yet win a victory, as he will not only now get a fair hearing, but will have the support of a large number of Liberals and Labourites and such experienced Anglo-Indian officials as Sir Henry Cotton and Mr. C. J. O'Donnell. Everything, however, depends on the attitude of

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
22nd Jan. 1906.



the Secretary of State who, if he were to follow the 'traditions of the service,' would stand by Lord Curzon and Mr. Brodriek. But is he likely to do so when he is an ardent advocate of that Liberalism which lays down that no public measure should be enacted against the wishes of those who are affected by it? "It is likely that Mr. Morley will be sought to be influenced, as Lord Minto was, by the argument that the partition being an accomplished fact and the people gradually showing signs of acquiescence, the measure should not be meddled with. But the fact should not be forgotten that if partition has been effected, it has been done by breaking a pledge and at the point of the bayonet as it were. Mr. Roberts and his colleagues will, no doubt, point all this out, but they should also receive stout support from India." The people should continue to hold public meetings and wire their protests against the partition to Mr. Morley, if possible. "If the police disperse their meetings, they should at once telegraph the fact to England. It will mean anarchy in the land if the police interfere with the right of the people to hold public meetings; but anarchy is not such a great disaster to the ruled as it is to the rulers." The only hope of salvation lies in continuing the agitation in a constitutional, though vigorous manner; and so long as the people have an opportunity of appealing to the 'listening ears' of Liberals and Labourites they should do so, as these parties will not throw them overboard if they are convinced that a gross wrong has been done to the people of Bengal.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
23rd Jan. 1906.

120. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is at a loss to understand why the shouting of *Bande Mataram* should offend anybody, especially the Government. If these words were shouted with a view to insulting the Government, then they might take objection to them, but even in that case it would not be justifiable for the Government to go into paroxysms of rage and so make themselves ridiculous in the eyes of the world. The journal reiterates that the cry of *Bande Mataram* is a 'pious ejaculation' uttered by Indians to give each other encouragement. "The British Government have imported and employed soldiers to stop the Bengali student shouting 'hail motherland!' Who can, after this, deny that despotic power is almost always followed by symptoms of some sort of insanity? This insanity has so clouded the judgment of the authorities that they not only indent for military help to suppress the cry, but also issue circulars which are accepted and obeyed by the Courts as if they were the laws of the land."

INDIAN MIRROR,  
24th Jan. 1906.

121. The *Indian Mirror* attaches the greatest importance to the Geological and Mining Institute which has just been opened at Asansol, as it will assuredly stimulate the industrial development of the country. There is no doubt that India is in a position to face foreign competition as regards the supply of most minerals, but the only difficulty lies in the fact that there is a lack of scientific knowledge among the people. This deficiency is at the root of the poverty of the country, and it is imperative that the educated classes should acquire an expert, scientific knowledge of industrial subjects, and especially mining, which is almost exclusively a European monopoly in India. The industrial question is in the forefront of all national questions, and the sooner the Indians realise this the sooner will their poverty-stricken condition be ameliorated and political rights follow. "Hitherto, unfortunately, we have relegated industrial improvement to the background of our national activities. We have cried ourselves hoarse over our political grievances, and dissipated our best energies in comparatively minor matters. We talk incessantly of our grinding poverty, of the growing impoverishment of the land, of the exploitation of our industrial wealth by foreign capitalists, and so on, but we do not wish to acknowledge that all these things are due to our own apathy and neglect."

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
25th Jan. 1906.

122. The *Hindoo Patriot* writes that Mr. Asquith's opinion that the legality of the partition is beyond dispute ought to be accepted as disposing of the matter, unless those 'professing extraordinary antipathy' to the measure consider, as the journal believes they will, that Mr. Asquith has been biassed by political motives in forming his views—"Curious are the ways of those who, defeated, would not confess to the effect candidly, but would make baseless assertions to



keep the uneducated public mind in suspense and create a self-satisfying impression about their own importance and omniscience.' To be hopeful is a good thing, but to continue so when there is absolutely nothing to warrant any hope being cherished, is foolish. Lord Minto, as the highest executive authority in the Empire, has declared his inability to rescind the partition. Mr. Asquith, who is almost the highest judicial authority in England, has strongly supported the legality of the measure. What then is there to justify the hope that the partition will be withdrawn? Agitation in a country like England, where Indian affairs interest nobody and the authorities are bent on maintaining the prestige of the Government, will be both precarious and expensive. 'Obviously, therefore, the best plan seems to be to so act and guide the people as to render the alleged baneful consequences of the partition practically inoperative.

123. In reviewing Mr. Howard Campbell's paper "Is India misgoverned?"

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
26th Jan. 1906.

"Is India misgoverned?"

and the replies thereto by Dr. G. B. Clark and Mr. Hedley V. Storey, both of whom are said to have wide personal experience of Indian life, the *Hindoo Patriot* remarks that an Englishman may flout or disregard Indian public opinion on the character of the British Indian Government, but when such opinion is endorsed by his own countrymen conversant with the subject he cannot trifle with it. "The replies of Messrs. Clark and Storey thus describe the actual situation in India, and do not seem to give an imaginary or imperial version of it. Nevertheless, with all the defects of the Indian Administration, the British Government appears to be the best Government that has ever ruled India since the Moslem conquest, as has been stated in these columns times without number."

Mr. Campbell in his article, it is said, asserts that 'there is no country in the world better governed.' Dr. Clark and Mr. Storey do not, however, agree in this opinion. The former asserts that while India was formerly one of the richest countries in the world, it is now the poorest. While in nearly all civilised countries the wealth and standard of comfort have increased, in India they have decreased. The death-rate in India has regularly increased. It is a well-known fact that the tenants in the khas mahal estates of Government are worse off than their fellows under the zamindars in the permanently-settled districts. 'When there is an alien Government that is paid to waste the money which it has extorted from the raiyats on useless frontier expeditions, on a costly military system, and on other extravagant methods of government, it is no wonder that the poverty of India is unequalled in any other part of the world.' Mr. Storey is of opinion that the great organisation of Government, run entirely by foreigners, is expensive beyond measure, and seems to be indifferent to the wishes of the people. India is the most militarised country. Seven years ago the military expenditure was £15,000,000 equivalent to the whole land revenue of the country, and to-day it is £20,000,000. The military element in the Viceroy's Council is supreme.

124. The *Benglee* writes that some time ago two Muhammadans went to

BENGALUR,  
26th Jan. 1906.

A mild form of insanity.

Rajshahi to preach the *swadeshi* movement, when inquiries were instantly made about them, as will appear from the following telegram received by the District Magistrate from 'a Nawab,' who was apparently addressed on the subject:—"Maulvis—and—are not related to me in any way, and I do not even know them." The matter did not end here. A copy of this 'interesting communication' was forwarded to the Rajshahi Bar Library over the signature of Mr. N. P. Guha "for Magistrate." The Secretary to the Bar Library was surprised to receive it and inquired why it had been sent to him, but has received no reply. It is asked if the authorities in the new Province have nothing better to do than to start foolish inquiries about honest and innocent people and make themselves ridiculous in the eyes of the world.

"Espionage and repression—methods of despotic government which the emissaries of the Tsar have developed into a fine art—are the first fruits of that 'efficient' administration which the partition of Bengal is intended to inaugurate. Truly there is something rotten in the state of Denmark and a thorough overhauling of the administration of the new Province is necessary, if those who live under it are to have any respect for it."

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENL.  
OF POLICE, L. P.

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,

The 27th January 1906.

K. B. THOMAS,

Personal Asst. to the Insp.-Genl. of Police, L. P.

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